

Message Text

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PAGE 01 LAGOS 04611 200847Z

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ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 CAB-02 CIAE-00

DODE-00 DOTE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 FAA-00 L-02 H-02 SS-15

NSC-05 /069 W

----- 101705

R 191634Z MAY 75

FM AMEMBASSY LAGOS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9332

INFO USDOC WASHDC

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMCONSUL CASABLANCA

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BRUSSELS FOR FAA

CASABLANCA FOR RCAA

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAIR, BEXP, NI

SUBJECT: CIVAIR: PANAM FOURTH FREQUENCY THROUGH LAGOS

1. AFTER SEVERAL YEARS OF EFFORT, PANAM FINALLY APPEARS TO BE NEARING AGREEMENT WITH FMG AND NIGERIA AIRWAYS (WT) OVER U.S. AIRLINE'S FOURTH FREQUENCY THROUGH LAGOS. ACCORDING TO LOCAL PANAM REP, HIS LATEST APPLICATION HAS NOT BEEN TURNED DOWN FLAT AS IN PAST; ON CONTRARY, IT HAS YIELDED POSITIVE SIGNALS FROM FMG AND PANAM IS REASONABLY CONFIDENT THAT APPROVAL WILL BE FORTHCOMING BY JUNE 1.

2. REASON FOR TURNAROUND IN FMG ATTITUDE NOT YET CLEAR. IT DOES APPEAR THAT WT HAS TAKEN DECISION TO CONCENTRATE ON EXPANSION OF DOMESTIC AND WEST AFRICAN ROUTES FOR TIME BEING, AND HAS PUSHED FURTHER INTO FUTURE ANY THOUGHTS OF FLYING ITS OWN AIRCRAFT TO NEW YORK; THIS WOULD HAVE REMOVED ONE POTENTIAL OBSTACLE TO PANAM REQUEST. IN ADDITION, WT APPEARS TO HAVE BEEN

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PAGE 02 LAGOS 04611 200847Z

GRADUALLY CONVINCED THAT BLOCKED-SEAT ARRANGEMENT WITH PANAM IS PROFITABLE TO NIGERIAN SIDE. ALL ALONG, PANAM HAS OFFERED EXPAN-

SION OF THIS ARRANGMENT AS INDUCEMENT FOR APPROVAL OF FOURTH
FREQUENCY, AND THIS WILL FORM PART OF JUNE 1 AGREEMENT. PRESENTLY,
WT HOLDS NINE ECONOMY SEATS AND ONE FIRST CLASS SEAT ON ONE
WEEKLY FREQUENCY, IN ADDITION TO A NUMBER OF FREIGHT PALLETS.
NEW ARRANGEMENT NOT YET DETERMINED, BUT WILL UNDOUBTEDLY INVOLVE
A LARGER TOTAL NUMBER OF BLOCKED SEATS SPREAD OUT OVER
AT LEAST THREE FREQUENCIES.

3. ACCORDING TO PANAM REP, PROBLEMS AT OTHER STOPS ALONG LINE
HAVE BEEN RESOLVED AND LAGOS IS LAST REMAINING OBSTACLE TO
FOURTH FREQUENCY. AIRLINE IS ALREADY FLYING ON NEW SCHEDULE
WITH THREE EXISTING FREQUENCIES ON ASSUMPTION FOURTH WILL BE
SLIPPED INTO ITS SLOT BY JUNE 1. NEW SCHEDULE WILL CALL FOR
ONE TERMINAL STOP AT JOHANNESBURG, ONE AT DAR-ES-SALAAM, AND TWO
AT NAIROBI. COPIES BEING POUCHED TO WALKER/STATE AND RYDLUN/
COMMERCE.
EASUM

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: AGREEMENTS, CIVIL AVIATION, NEGOTIATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 19 MAY 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: ElyME
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975LAGOS04611
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750176-1093
From: LAGOS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750540/aaaabjmr.tel
Line Count: 78
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EB
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ElyME
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 10 APR 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <10 APR 2003 by Izenbel0>; APPROVED <03 DEC 2003 by ElyME>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: CIVAIR: PANAM FOURTH FREQUENCY THROUGH LAGOS
TAGS: EAIR, BEXP, NI, PANAM
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006